

What is claimed is:

1. A file control system comprising:

means for analyzing content of a file being accessed by a local computer; and

means for identifying if the content is proprietary.

2. The file control system of claim 1, further including means for blocking the file from being transferred across a network.

3. The file control system of claim 1, further including means for modifying the file before transferring it.

4. The file control system of claim 3, wherein the means for modifying the file includes means for adding dead air to a music file.

5. The file control system of claim 3, wherein the means for modifying the file includes means for adding an advertisement to a movie file.

6. The file control system of claim 3, wherein the means for modifying the file includes means for adding noise.

7. The file control system of claim 3, wherein the means for modifying the file includes means for cutting off a portion of it.

8. The file control system of claim 3, wherein the means for modifying the file includes means for corrupting it.

9. The file control system of claim 3, wherein the means for analyzing the file includes means for generating a tag corresponding to the data.

10. The file control system of claim 9, wherein the tag includes spectral information corresponding to the file.

11. The file control system of claim 9, wherein the tag includes an IP address corresponding to the file.

12. The file control system of claim 9, wherein the tag includes an identifier of what action to take with regard to the file .

13. The file control system of claim 9, wherein the tag identifies an owner of the file.

14. The file control system of claim 9, wherein the means for generating a tag further includes means for comparing the tag to other tags.

15. The file control system of claim 14, wherein the means for comparing the tag to other tags compares the tag to the other tags in a local database of tags.

16. The file control system of claim 15, wherein the local database of tags can be updated from a master database of tags maintained on a network server.

17. The file control system of claim 14, wherein the means for comparing the tag to other tags compares the tag to the other tags in a database of tags.

18. The file control system of claim 1, wherein the means for analyzing and the means for identifying are embodied in software.

19. The file control system of claim 1, wherein the means for analyzing and the means for identifying are embodied in hardware.

20. The file control system of claim 1, wherein the means for analyzing and the means for identifying are embodied in firmware.

21. The file control system of claim 1, wherein the file includes a music file.

22. The file control system of claim 1, wherein the file includes a movie file.

23. The file control system of claim 1, wherein the file includes at least a portion of a book.

24. The file control system of claim 1, wherein the file includes an image.

25. The file control system of claim 1, wherein the file is encrypted.

26. The file control system of claim 1, wherein the file includes at least one of an image, music, a movie, publishing content, an executable file, a video game, private health record, a pharmaceutical record, confidential personal documents, a will, a virus, a financial record, a CAD drawing, trade secret information, a customer list, and a confidential corporate document.

27. A method of file transfer control comprising the steps of:
analyzing content of a file being accessed by a local computer; and
identifying if the content is proprietary.

28. The method of claim 27, further including the step of blocking the file from being transferred across a network.

29. The method of claim 27, further including the step of modifying the file before transferring it.

30. The method claim 29, wherein the step of modifying the file includes the step of adding dead air to a music file.

31. The method claim 29, wherein the step of modifying the file includes the step of adding an advertisement to a movie file.

32. The method claim 29, wherein the step of modifying the file includes the step of adding noise.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of modifying the file includes the step of cutting off a portion of it.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of modifying the file includes the step

of corrupting it.

35. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of analyzing the file includes the step of generating a tag corresponding to the data.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the tag includes spectral information corresponding to the file.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein the tag includes an IP address corresponding to the file.

38. The method of claim 35, wherein the tag includes an identifier of what action to take with regard to the file .

39. The method of claim 35, wherein the tag identifies an owner of the file.

40. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of generating a tag further includes the step of comparing the tag to other tags.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the step of comparing the tag to other tags compares the tag to the other tags in a local database of tags.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the local database of tags can be updated from a

master database of tags maintained on a network server.

43. The method of claim 40, wherein the step of comparing the tag to other tags compares the tag to the other tags in a database of tags.
44. The method of claim 27, wherein the file includes a music file.
45. The method of claim 27, wherein the file includes a movie file.
46. The method of claim 27, wherein the file includes at least a portion of a book.
47. The method of claim 27, wherein the file includes an image.
48. The method of claim 27, wherein the file is encrypted.
49. The method of claim 27, wherein the file includes at least one of an image, music, a movie, publishing content, an executable file, a video game, private health record, a pharmaceutical record, confidential personal documents, a will, a virus, a financial record, a CAD drawing, trade secret information, a customer list, and a confidential corporate document.

50. A computer program product for file transfer control comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in
the computer usable medium for causing an application program to execute on a computer
system, the computer readable program code means comprising:
computer readable program code means for analyzing content of a file being
accessed by a local computer; ; and
computer readable program code means for identifying if the content is
proprietary.